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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/922,061	08/02/2001	Christoph A. Aktas	2001 P 13665 US	7577

7590 04/18/2005

Siemens Corporation
Attn: Elsa Keller, Legal Administrator
Intellectual Property Department
186 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, NJ 08830

EXAMINER

CLARK, ISAAC R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2154

DATE MAILED: 04/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/922,061

Applicant(s)

AKTAS ET AL.

Examiner

Isaac R Clark

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 January 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,9,10 and 12-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-5,9,10 and 12-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 January 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01/21/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 3-5, 9, 10, and 12-16 are presented for examination.

Priority

2. The effective filing date for the subject matter in the pending claims in this application is 08/02/2001.

Response to Amendment

3. Based on the amended Fig. 1 submitted by the applicant, Office withdraws the objection to the drawings from the previous Office Action.
4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-5, 9, 10, and 12-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 4, 10, 13, and 14 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Owens et al. (US Patent 6,633,630) hereinafter Owens in view of Davies et al. (US 6,289,337 B1, "Davies") and Obradovich et al. (US 2002/0013815 A1, "Obradovich").
7. As per claim 1, Owens teaches a multimedia mailbox system (Abstract, col. 5, lines 14-25), comprising: a message store 10 for storing multimedia messages (Fig. 1;

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col. 5, lines 59-65); and a conversion means for converting non-text messages to text (Fig. 12, col. 13, lines 57-60).

8. Owens fails to explicitly teach a summarization means for automatically summarizing text, wherein said summarization means reduces text messages to a list of keywords from a plurality of lists of keywords, each keyword of each list being selectable by a user, said list of keywords applied to said text being based upon a sender of a message.

9. Davies teaches a summarization means for automatically summarizing text, wherein said summarization means reduces text messages to a list of keywords from a lists of keywords, each keyword of each list being selectable by a user (col. 6, lines 48-53).

10. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Owens and Davies because they both deal with screening messages based on a user profile. Furthermore, the teaching of Davies to summarize the text using a user specific list of keywords allows the user to screen messages using a reduced text version of the message, which has been tailored to his interest allowing efficient location and prioritization of relevant messages (See Davies, lines 19-22).

11. Obradovich teaches providing keyword lists in profiles and selecting the keyword lists based on the sender of a message (Paragraph 0071-0073).

12. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Owens and Obradovich because they

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both deal with organizing the content of messages based on keywords. Furthermore, the teaching of Obradovich to apply the keyword list based on the sender of a message allows predicting a likely subject or domain of the message and thus allows more effective summarization by tailoring the summarizer for the domain of the message (See Obradovich, Paragraphs 0044-0045).

13. As per claim 4, Owens teaches a multimedia mailbox system according to claim 1, further comprising: a filter means for determining high priority messages based on keyword filtering (Fig. 8; col. 11, lines 62-67); and an automatic means for automatically sending messages high priority messages to a designated user (col. 12, lines 9-13).

14. Owens does not explicitly teach sending a summary of high priority messages to a designated user.

15. Davies teaches a summarization means for automatically summarizing text, wherein said summarization means reduces text messages to a list of keywords from a lists of keywords, each keyword of each list being selectable by a user (col. 6, lines 48-53).

16. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Owens and Davies because they both deal with screening messages based on a user profile. Furthermore, the teaching of Davies to summarize the text using a user specific list of keywords allows the user to screen messages using a reduced text version of the message, which has been tailored to his interest allowing efficient location and prioritization of relevant messages (See Davies, lines 19-22).

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17. As per claim 10, claim 10 is a method claim covering the same subject matter as claim 1. Claim 10 is rejected for the same reason as claim 1.

18. As per claims 13 and 14, claims 13 and 14 are rejected for the same reason as claim 4.

19. Claims 3 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Owens, Davis, and Obradovich as applied to claim 1, and further in view of McGee et al. (US 2002/0104088 A1, "McGee").

20. As per claim 3, Owens fails to explicitly teach wherein said list of keywords applied to said text being further based upon a message subject.

21. McGee teaches using a plurality of user generated keyword lists for each of multiple message subjects (Paragraph 0027).

22. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Owens and McGee because they both with screening content based on keywords. Furthermore, the teaching of McGee to select a keyword list based on the subject increases the effectiveness of the summarizer by allowing it to be tailored for the domain of the message (See McGee paragraph 0036).

23. As per claim 12, claim 12 is a method claim covering the same subject matter as claim 3. Claim 12 is rejected for the same reason as claim 3.

24. Claims 5, 15, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Owens et al. (US Patent 6,633,630) hereinafter Owens in view of Davies et al. (US

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6,289,337 B1, "Davies"), McGee et al. (US 2002/0104088 A1, "McGee"), and Obradovich et al. (US 2002/0013815 A1, "Obradovich").

25. As per claim 5, Owens teaches a multimedia mailbox system, comprising: a message store for storing multimedia messages (Fig. 1; col. 5, lines 59-65); a conversion means for converting non-text messages to text (Fig. 12, col. 13, lines 57-60); and a filter means for determining high priority messages (Fig. 8; col. 11, lines 62-67);

26. Owens fails to explicitly teach a summarization means for automatically summarizing text, wherein said summarization means reduces text messages to a list of keywords from a plurality of lists of keywords, each keyword of each list being selectable by a user, said list of keywords applied to said text being based upon a sender of a message and a message subject.

27. Davies teaches a summarization means for automatically summarizing text, wherein said summarization means reduces text messages to a list of keywords from a lists of keywords, each keyword of each list being selectable by a user (col. 6, lines 48-53).

28. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Owens and Davies because they both deal with screening messages based on a user profile. Furthermore, the teaching of Davies to summarize the text using a user specific list of keywords allows the user to screen messages using a reduced text version of the message, which has been tailored

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to his interest allowing efficient location and prioritization of relevant messages (See Davies, lines 19-22).

29. McGee teaches using a plurality of user generated keyword lists for each of multiple message subjects (Paragraph 0027).

30. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Owens and McGee because they both with screening content based on keywords. Furthermore, the teaching of McGee to select a keyword list based on the subject increases the effectiveness of the summarizer by allowing it to be tailored for the domain of the message (See McGee paragraph 0036).

31. Obradovich teaches providing keyword lists in profiles and selecting the keyword lists based on the sender of a message (Paragraph 0071-0073).

32. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Owens and Obradovich because they both deal with organizing the content of messages based on keywords. Furthermore, the teaching of Obradovich to select keyword lists based on the sender allows predicting a likely subject or domain of the message and thus allows more effective summarization by tailoring the summarizer for the domain of the message.

33. As per claims 15 and 16, claim 15 and 16 are method claims covering the same subject matter as claim 5. Claims 15 and 16 are rejected for the same reason as claim 5.

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34. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Owens, Davis, McGee, and Obradovich as applied to claim 5 above, and further in view of Pollack.

35. As per claim 9, Owens teaches a multimedia mailbox system according to claim 8 further comprising automatic means for automatically sending a high priority messages to a designated user (Fig. 8; col. 11, lines 62-67; col. 12, lines 9-13).

36. Owens fails to teach forwarding a summary of high priority messages to a designated user.

37. Pollack teaches automatic forwarding of summaries of messages (col. 6, lines 48-52, message information delivered to users; col. 7, lines 19-21; message information includes summary of message).

38. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Owens and Pollack because to forward summaries of high priority messages to a designated user because they both deal with handling incoming electronic messages in a mailbox. Furthermore, the teaching of Pollack forward a summary would facilitate quick evaluation and response to high priority messages (Pollack, col. 8, lines 36-42).

Conclusion

39. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isaac R Clark whose telephone number is (571)272-3961. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm.

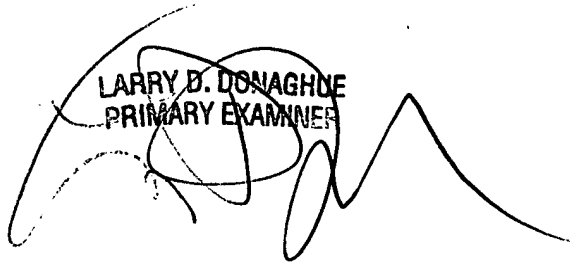
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A Follansbee can be reached on (571)272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

IRC

LARRY D. DONAGHUE
PRIMARY EXAMNER

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke, is written over the printed name and title of the primary examiner.